

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in independent Claim 23 and associated dependent claims. Claims 8, 11, 12, 23, and 24 have been maintained as previously presented pending further disposition of this application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The Office Action objects to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The specification has thus been amended appropriately to address these concerns. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 16-20, and 22-24 remain currently pending, as previously presented. Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 16-20, and 22 stand rejected as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is not understood, because the allegedly offending language noted in the Office Action (i.e., the first and second opposing portions) is clearly supported by the application as originally filed, *inter alia*, FIGS. 3-5.

The Office Action states that the first or second opposing portion could be defined by the cartridge panel. However, this interpretation is inconsistent with the language of the independent claims. For example, Claim 1 states that a blood treatment machine has a first opposing portion with a first surface and a second opposing portion with a second surface. By this language, the first and second opposing portions are clearly associated with the blood treatment machine, not the later-recited cartridge panel. Moreover, Claim 1 recites that the blood treatment machine first and second opposing portions are movable with respect to each other to close around the cartridge panel. It is unclear how the Office Action then reinterprets the first or second opposing portions to be defined by the

cartridge panel if the language of the claim states that the blood treatment machine first and second opposing portions close around the cartridge panel.

Features similar to those described above with respect to Claim 1 are present in Claim 16, and thus the rejection of Claim 16 also suffers from similar deficiencies.

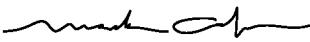
Since the interpretation of the first and second opposing portions by the Office Action as being defined by the cartridge panel is inconsistent with the language of the respective independent claims, and since the language of Claims 1 and 16 is fully supported by the application as originally filed (*inter alia*, FIGS. 3-5), Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph are improper and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, this application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T4342-14198US18) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Mark A. Catan
Reg. No. 38,720

Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
(703) 903-9000

Frederick F. Rosenberger
Reg. No. 61,404